



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

SEP 13 1971

Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff
Chairman, Subcommittee on Executive
Reorganization and Government Research
Committee on Government Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This is in reference to your letter of July 9, 1971, inviting the Attorney General to appear, along with Secretary of State Rogers, Defense Secretary Laird, and CIA Director Helms, before an executive session of the Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization and Government Research and the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations to discuss the complicity of top Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese officials in the drug traffic in Southeast Asia.

The delay in the response to this invitation was occasioned by our efforts to canvass the various sources of information to determine what pertinent facts are available.

Certainly, allegations of complicity on the part of some public officials have come to our attention. At the same time, however, we do not have any specific evidence which links any high official in the Southeast Asian countries with the narcotic traffic there. Thus, we do not feel that it would be appropriate to testify. Further, even a closed session on the subject could fan unfounded rumors and cause possible international repercussions.

NOTE: Identical ltr. to: Hon. Edmund S. Muskie
Chairman, Subc. on Intergovernmental Relations
Committee on Government Operations
United States Senate

DOJ review(s)
completed.

CRC, 6/4/2003

You are correct in your assessment of the problem of drug traffic among our servicemen as being most urgent. The ready supply of heroin in Vietnam is a very real problem.

The United States Government has taken a very active role in encouraging the South Vietnamese Government to reduce the supply of heroin. Moreover, the United States military is responding to this problem, not only in Vietnam, but on a worldwide basis. It is taking decisive actions to identify servicemen who are using heroin, to detoxify those dependent on heroin, and to offer further rehabilitation to those who need additional assistance.

Let me express our appreciation for the prompt attention which you have given the Administration's important proposal to establish the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Kleindienst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "K".

Richard G. Kleindienst
Deputy Attorney General

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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
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Page 3

8. [] Roy Bullock, Staff Administrator, House Foreign Affairs Committee, called about the request which Representative Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the Near East Subcommittee, had made for the appearance of an Agency witness before his Subcommittee on the situation in the Middle East. Bullock said he planned to raise this question with Chairman Morgan since Hamilton had written to him on the subject. He asked what the "protocol" was on this. I told him that in the past we had accepted a verbal indication that Chairman Morgan endorsed the request of a subcommittee chairman for a briefing, but we agreed that under the rules under which the House is now operating, it might be desirable for the Chairman to submit these requests in writing. I told Bullock that I would give this some thought and be back in touch with him tomorrow.

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9. [] Walter Ochinko, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, called to say he had been referred to us by Mr. Swain, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, in connection with a request the Library has received for a study on the use of heroin in Southeast Asia. Swain suggested that Ochinko ask the Agency for a copy of a research paper which we recently prepared on the subject of heroin in Southeast Asia. This matter has been referred to [] O/DDI, and [] in [] office, for response.

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10. [] John Lehman, White House staff, called to advise us of a letter which the President has received from Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee, on the CIA funding of operations in Laos. The Director has been advised of this conversation. See Memo for Record.

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11. [] Mr. Peter Stark, in the office of Representative John Schmitz (R., Calif.), called and asked if we could supply him with a map of SE Asia depicting the areas of insurgent activities for their use in the office. I told him I would look into it and be back in touch. Mr. [] OBGI, is working on this.

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